

for raising inconvenient questions and pretending to a sanctity beyond his colleagues. Eventually, another nephew of Secundus threatened that they would all withdraw from his communion and make a schism (*recedcre ft schisma facer t^* unless he let the matter drop. "What business is it of yours what each has done? " asked the outspoken nephew, "It is to God that each must tender his account." The president thereupon drew in his horns, pronounced the *acquit*, tal of the accused, and with a general murmur of "*Deo gnifias*" they proceeded to the election of a bishop. Their choice fell upon Sylvanus, himself a *traditt>r<sub>t</sub>* much, it is said, to the indignation of the people of Cirta, who raised cries of, " lit\* is a *trtiditor*; let another be elected. We want our bishop to be pure and upright." Sylvanus had <sup>^</sup>atrended<sub>1</sub> without even a show of compulsion, one of the sacred silver lamps from the altar of his church. It is more than possible that the report of the proceedings at this synod, which is found only in works written specifically- - but: by episcopal hands against the Donatists, is highly exaggerated, Amon<sub>2</sub>; the bishops present at Cirta were those who, a few years later, were the principal leaders of the Donatist schism. But, even when all allowances are math; for party colouring<sup>1</sup>, the picture it jjives of the Numidkin Church is far from flattering.

During the life of Mcnsurius overt schism wan avoided, though the Church of Carthage wan by no means untroubled. For even before the persecution broke out, a certain lady named Lucilla had fallen under the censure of the ecclesiastical authorities,